

HIS 544: EARLY MODERN EUROPE: SELECTED TOPICS

ITALY IN THE (LONG) RENAISSANCE, 1350-1650

Fall Semester 2008
Mon, Wed, Fri 1:00-1:50
Humanities 2207

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Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00-10:45 and by appointment

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Required Reading for Course:

John M. Najemy, Italy in the Age of the Renaissance
Gene Brucker, Giovanni and Lusanna
Lauro Martines, Fire in the City
Margaret F. Rosenthal, The Honest Courtesan
Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms
Dava Sobel, Galileo's Daughter
John A. Marino, Early Modern Italy (recommended)

These books are available for purchase at the UNCG Bookstore and are also on reserve at Jackson Library. Using the internet can frequently result in savings on book purchases. In addition, a number of articles and essays are available on e-reserve or JSTOR and are marked accordingly. Readings in brackets are required for graduate students; recommended for undergraduates.

COURSE SYLLABUS

- M 8/25 Introduction to Course
- W 8/27 Why Italy? Urban Life
Italy in the Age of the Renaissance [IAR] 1-6 (Najemy),
IAR 89-90 (Kirshner)
- F 8/29 Why Italy? Social Classes and the World of Work
IAR 6-17 (Najemy), IAR 127-144 (Franceschi)
- M 9/1 LABOR DAY
- W 9/3 The Rebirth of the Classics: Humanism
IAR 37-42, 47-58 (Quillen)
Petrarch “The Ascent of Mont Ventoux” (e-reserves)
- F 9/5 Humanism
Petrarch “The Ascent of Mont Ventoux” (e-reserves)
- M 9/8 Civic Humanism
IAR 18-19, [19-29], 29-36 (Black)
IAR 42-47 (Quillen)
Leonardo Bruni “Life of Petrarca” (e-reserves)
- W 9/10 Political and Cultural Centers: Florence
IAR 145-146, 152-164 (Zorzi)
Anthony Molho, “Cosimo de’ Medici: Pater Patriae
or Padrino?” in The Italian Renaissance: Essential
Readings pp 64-90 (e-reserves)
- F 9/12 Political and Cultural Centers: Venice
IAR 184-188 (Najemy)
Stanley Chojnacki, “Political Adulthood” in
Women and Men in Renaissance Venice pp.227-243
- M 9/15 Political and Cultural Centers: Rome
IAR 236-239 (Muir)
Peter Partner, “Introduction,” Renaissance Rome pp. 3-23
- W 9/17 Political and Cultural Centers: Naples
IAR 208-225 (Abulafia)

- F 9/19 Clergy and Laity in Catholic Italy
IAR 59-81 (Peterson)
FIRST ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT
- M 9/22 Religion and the People
Edward Muir, "The Virgin on the Street Corner:
The Place of the Sacred in Italian Cities," in Religion and Culture
in the Renaissance and Reformation pp.25-40
- W 9/24 Art, Patronage, and Public Life
IAR 226-236, 239-242 (Muir)
Melissa M. Bullard, "Heroes and Their Workshops: Medici
Patronage and the Problem of Shared Agency," in The Italian
Renaissance: Essential Readings pp.299-316
- F 9/26 Art, Patronage, and Private Power
IAR 242-245 (Muir)
Randolph Starn, "Seeing Culture in a Room for a Renaissance
Prince," in The New Cultural History pp.205-232
- M 9/29 Investigating Love and Marriage:
Giovanni and Lusanna 1-37
IAR [82-90], 90-102 (Kirshner)
- W 10/1 Giovanni and Lusanna 39-75
- F 10/3 Giovanni and Lusanna 77-121
Emlyn Eisenach, "'Tenere a Sua Posta': Concubinage in Verona," in
Husbands, Wives, and Concubines pp.134-177
FIRST ASSIGNMENT DUE
- M 10/6 Investigating Religion and Politics:
Fire in the City xiv-xvi, chs.1-2 [3], 4-5
- W 10/8 Fire in the City chs.[6-7], 8-9
- F 10/10 Fire in the City chs.10-11 [12]
- M 10/13 Fire in the City chs.13, [14], 15, [16]
- W 10/15 Fire in the City chs.17-18, [19], pp.273-281, ch. 20
Cynthia L. Polecristi, "In the Shop of the Lord: Bernardino of
Siena and Popular Devotion," in Beyond Florence pp.147-159

- F 10/17 New Political Realities
IAR 184-207 (Najemy)
Machiavelli, The Prince excerpts (e-reserve)
SECOND ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT
- LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES
- M 10/20 FALL BREAK
- W 10/22 Machiavelli
The Prince excerpts (e-reserve)
- F 10/24 Italy in the Sixteenth Century: The End of the Renaissance?
IAR 246-265 (Brown)
- M 10/27 Investigating Sexuality and Creativity:
The Honest Courtesan [Intro 1-10]
ch.1: 11-24, [24-45], 45-57
- W 10/29 Honest Courtesan
ch.2: 58-88 [88-111]
- F 10/31 Honest Courtesan
[ch. 3] ch.4: 153-177, [177-195], 196-197
- M 11/3 Honest Courtesan
Ch.5: 204-209, [209-218], 247-255
Mary O'Neil, "Magical Healing, Love Magic and the
Inquisition in Late Sixteenth-Century Modena," in
Inquisition and Society in Early Modern Europe pp. 88-114
- W 11/5 Catholic Reform and Counter-Reformation
Early Modern Italy [EMI] 30-47 (Martin;
96-101 (Litchfield); 125-142 (Schutte)
Jennifer Selwyn, "'Procuring in the Common People These Better
Behaviors:' The Jesuits' Civilizing Mission in Early Modern Naples,
1550-1620," Radical History Review 67(1997):4-43 (JSTOR)
SECOND ASSIGNMENT DUE
- F 11/7 NO CLASS MEETING
- M 11/10 Investigating Peasant Culture:
The Cheese and the Worms xi-xxvi, 1-30
- W 11/12 Cheese and Worms 30-61

- F 11/14 Cheese and Worms 62-95
- M 11/17 Cheese and Worms 95-128
 Thomas V. Cohen, "A Long Day in Monte Rotondo:
 The Politics of Jeopardy in a Village Uprising (1558),"
Comparative Studies in Society and History 33 (1991): 639-668 (JSTOR)
- W 11/19 The Age of the Baroque: Art and Music
 EMI 143-157 (Snyder)
- F 11/21 Investigating Science and Faith:
Galileo's Daughter 1-58
 THIRD ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT
- M 11/24 Galileo's Daughter 59-70
 Galileo, "Letter to Castelli" (e-reserves)
 EMI 166-182 (Findlen)
- W 11/26}
 THANKSGIVING
- F 11/28}
- M 12/1 Galileo's Daughter [70-142], 143-183
- W 12/3 Galileo's Daughter [187-215], 216-227, 231-281
- F 12/5 Galileo's Daughter [285-327], 331-368
 Katherine Park, "Medicine and Magic: The Healings Arts," in
Gender and Society in Renaissance Italy pp.129-149
- M 12/8 Renaissance Italy: Myths and Realities
 Suitably Festive End of Course

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12 THIRD ASSIGNMENT DUE IN DR. BILINKOFF'S
 MAILBOX IN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT OFFICE (HUMANITIES 2118A) BY
 2:00 PM. YOU MAY HAND IT IN EARLIER IF YOU SO CHOOSE.

GUIDELINES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attendance Policy:** This is a small, seminar-style course. Regular attendance and full participation by students is absolutely crucial to the success of the course. If you are not prepared to come consistently, arrive on time, and stay until the end of the class period, please drop the course. If you miss more than 3 classes you may be dropped at the sole discretion of the instructor. If you miss 3 classes in a row you will definitely be dropped. I will drop registered students who do not attend the first two meetings of the semester or notify me.
- Attentiveness Policy:** If you are not prepared to pay attention and take careful notes during class periods, please drop this course. I do not make seating assignments, but if I find that students are talking together during class or behaving in such a way that distracts me or other students I will require them to change their seats. I do not allow laptops in the classroom, except in cases of documented medical need. In those cases I will require students to seat themselves so as not to distract others. Cellphones and other electronic devices must be turned off and stowed away from desks during the class period.
- Please read the material specified for a given class period before coming to class and be prepared to raise questions and engage in discussion. It is essential to keep up with the syllabus. If you lose your copy, just ask me for another or download a copy from the History department website: www.uncg.edu/his
- Grades will be based primarily upon several take-home writing assignments. In addition, each student will make an oral presentation on assigned readings and be responsible for leading the class discussion. I will derive grades based on this rough scale: 3 writing assignments, 30% each, class participation, including oral presentation 10%. I will explain all this in greater detail after the drop/add period is over. Please word-process all writing assignments, double-spaced, spell-checked, and with standard 12-point fonts and margins. I require hard copies of written work; I will accept e-mail attachments only with prior permission. As always, I am looking for correctness and clarity of exposition in students' written work, as well as a demonstration of comprehension of course content. Put another way: writing counts!
- RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE:** If for ANY reason you are unable to hand in an assignment or make an oral presentation on time, it is YOUR responsibility to contact me. If I am not contacted directly or by message I will not accept late assignments. See the first page of the syllabus for ways of contacting me.
- If you do not think you will be able to abide by these guidelines, please drop the course. The last day to drop courses without academic penalty is Friday October 17. BUT: if you would like learn about a fascinating period of history, please take this course!